

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 288806

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 288806 ACTION GABORONE INFO LUSAKA
MASERU MBABANE PRETORIA GENEVA 25 NOV 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 288806

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PINS, BC, SF

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR USG ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA TO
HELP GOB MEET REFUGEE PROBLEMS

REF: GABORONE 2110, NOV. 17, 1976

1. WITH REFERENCE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION IN PARA 5
REFTEL THAT USG MAKE ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTIONS NOW TO HELP
GOB WITH REFUGEE PROBLEMS, IT IS OUR POLICY THAT ANY USG
FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING AFRICAN REFUGEE
PROBLEMS SHOULD BE CONTRIBUTED TO THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES IN SUPPORT OF UNHCR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
FOR CONCERNED AFRICAN COUNTRIES. POLICY OF CONFINING SUCH
REF'GEE ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS MULTI-LATERAL
APPROACH AND AVOIDING DIRECT BI-LATERAL CONTRIBUTIONS HAS
BEEN IN EFFECT FOR SOME YEARS. THIS POLICY APPROACH HAS
REPEATEDLY BEEN CLEARED WITH AND ENDORSED BY CONGRESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 388806

SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS ARE IN THE FORM OF REGULAR ANNUAL CON-

TRIBUTIONS TO UNHCR ON-GOING MATERIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNHCR TO HELP LATTER RESOLVE SPECIAL REFUGEE PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE. U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNHCR SPECIAL PROGRAMS IN AFRICA ARE MADE IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC UNHCR APPEALS TO GOVERNMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.

2. WE BELIEVE THIS EVENHANDED APPROACH TO THE QUESTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN BEHALF AFRICAN REFUGEES BEST SERVES OVER-ALL USG POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES. FYI: WE ARE PRESENTLY PROCESSING A REQUEST FOR A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION UNDER THE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1962 AS AMENDED WHICH WOULD ENABLE U.S. TO CONTRIBUTE DOLS. 1 MILLION TO UNHCR FOR ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES, LARGELY IN MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, SWAZILAND AND ZAIRE. SUCH CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE IN RESPONSE TO TWO UNHCR APPEALS MADE SINCE MAY 1976 FOR FUNDS TALLING DOLS. 3.25 MILLION FOR SUCH PURPOSES. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS UNHCR HAS ALREADY RECEIVED ABOUT DOLS. 1,170,000 IN RESPONSE TO APPEALS. DEPARTMENT WILL KEEP EMBASSY ADVISED RE THIS MATTER. END FYI

3. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING EMBASSY MAY WISH TO SUGGEST TO GOB THAT IT PRESS UNHCR TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF ITS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA. APART FROM UNHCR REGULAR PROGRAM WHICH DEVOTES MAJOR EMPHASIS TO ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEE GROUPS IN AFRICA, AND OTHER PROGRAMS FOR WHICH SPECIAL UNHCR APPEALS ARE MADE, UNHCR MAINTAINS AN EMERGENCY FUND FROM WHICH FINANCING CAN BE PROVIDED IN SPECIAL REFUGEE SITUATIONS. ROBINSON.
UNQUOTE KISSINGER.

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